

What is the Bachelor of Individualized Studies?

The Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) and the Individually Designed Interdepartmental Major (IDIM) are individualized programs of study in the College of Liberal Arts for students who want to tailor their educational programs to their own interests and goals. The Bachelor of Individualized Studies (BIS) is a degree program in which you combine three areas of concentration rather than have a major. One concentration may be from outside CLA, and the concentrations may be unrelated to each other. An Individually Designed Interdepartmental Major (IDIM) for the B.A. degree enables you to focus on a unifying theme by combining courses from three or more CLA departments.

What are the major requirements?

Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select “undergraduate majors.”

How do I declare a Bachelor of Individualized Studies major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Go to a BIS information meeting to learn more about program requirements and the program approval process. Information meetings are held three times a week. Meeting times are listed on the IDP website (www.idp.class.umn.edu). You may call (612) 624-8006 or come to 345 Fraser Hall to sign up.
2. When you have decided upon your program goals and concentration areas, meet with a BIS adviser to fill out a BIS Major Declaration Form.
3. File this form with your CLA student community. At the time the major declaration is filed, a registration hold will be placed on you records that requires you to meet with a BIS adviser prior to each registration until you have completed the program approval process.
4. To complete the program approval process, you will first work closely with a BIS adviser to develop your BIS program proposal, which explains your academic goals and lists your proposed courses. You will then submit the proposal to the BIS Proposal Review Committee.
5. After the Proposal Review Committee has accepted your proposal, you will bring your BIS program proposal to advisers in your area of concentration for their review and formal approval.
6. Bring the program approval forms signed by your concentration area advisers to a BIS adviser and fill out a major program form.
7. Last, bring the major program form to your CLA Student Community. After this you will no longer be required to see a BIS adviser before you register, but you will need to consult your adviser about any changes in your program and about planning your analytic paper.

For more information:

About the Bachelor of Individualized Studies degree:

Individualized Degree Programs Office
345 Fraser Hall
(612) 624-8006
<http://idp.class.umn.edu/>
idp@class.cla.umn.edu

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

Individualized Degree Programs Office
345 Fraser Hall
(612) 624-8006
<http://idp.class.umn.edu/>
socsci@class.cla.umn.edu

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/>
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu/
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division
20 Nicholson
(612) 624-5522
www.honors.class.umn.edu/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu

What can I do with a major in Bachelor of Individualized Studies?

Skills

Critical and independent thinking, writing, self-confidence, flexibility, and the ability to navigate a complex system are among the most important skills and qualities that BIS graduates say they developed through their individualized degree programs. BIS graduates report that employers are often impressed with the creativity, initiative, and persistence they demonstrate in having completed individualized programs.

Employment

Individualized programs can include courses from a wide variety of departments. The majority of BIS graduates go on to work in fields related to their programs of study. Among the most common fields are communication and media, marketing and advertising, finance, education, human resources, health care, and non-profit program management. In recent years, over 25% of BIS students have gone on to graduate degree programs that prepared them to work in fields ranging from business to education to law to medicine to public health to screenwriting.

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!